

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by 6,667,280 to Chang *et al.* However, the fluid of Chang contains a co-surfactant. The fluid of the present invention, as set forth in paragraph [0015] of the specification, does not. Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation that the fluid does not contain a co-surfactant.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over 6,258,859 to Dahayanake *et al.* Dahayanake states (col. 6, lines 57-61) that "The organic acid or salt thereof will typically be present in the viscoelastic fluid at a weight concentration of from about 0.1% to about 10%, more typically from about 0.1% to 7%, and even more typically from about 0.1% to about 6%." Dahayanake does not disclose using inorganic acids. Claim 1 has been amended to claim the use of inorganic acids or of organic acids at a concentration of greater than 10%. Support for the limitation of greater than 10% is found in paragraph [0016] of the specification. With respect to claim 4, Dahayanake describes the use of "a medium to long chain alcohols...preferably having 5 to 10 carbon atoms" (col. 7, lines 17-23) and "a lower molecular weight alcohol.....for instance isopropanol" (col. 8, lines 8-12). Claim 4 has been amended to claim only methanol or ethanol. Claim 5 has been canceled. The amended claims are not anticipated by Dahayanake. Claim 12 adds a further limitation to claim 4 and therefore is not anticipated by Dahayanake.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 15 has been amended for clarity and to correct a lack of antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended in a similar manner.

Claims 1 and 4 were objected to because of an informality. In the amendments, the parentheses have been removed from the claims.


Claims 6-11 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants believe that these claims are now dependent upon allowable base claims.

Claim 14 was allowable over the art of record.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fee, or credit any excess fee paid, to Deposit Account 04-1579 (56.0630).

Respectfully submitted,



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